

10/585280

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 2418.95US01

Hironori Matsubara et al.

Application No.: Unknown

Filed: *Of Even Date*

For: METHOD FOR SEPARATING BAST FIBERS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The listing of a reference herein is not an admission that the reference is prior art or that the reference is material to patentability.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the application. No certification or fee is required.

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The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas J. Christensen  
Registration No. 35,480

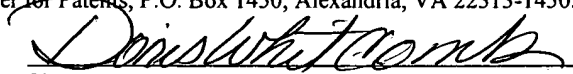
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Patterson, Thunte, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-3001

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| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL <sup>*</sup> | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | T <sup>6</sup>  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
|                                  |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                |  |                 |
|                                  |                          | JP 2003-201689   | 07/18/2003                     | Sakurai  | X<br>(abstract) |
|                                  |                          | JP 11-241284   | 09/07/1999                     | Onda   | X<br>(abstract) |
|                                  |                          | JP 2002-105737   | 04/10/2002                     | Miyaki   | X<br>(abstract) |
|                                  |                          | JP 2001-336022   | 12/07/2001                     | Mori   | X<br>(abstract) |
|                                  |                          |  |                                |  |                 |
|                                  |                          |  |                                |  |                 |

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.